Café 655, one of several corporate cafés on the campus of Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa, recently underwent a complete renovation as part of the financial giant’s $400 million revamp of its headquarters complex.

Setting up a new space

Café 655, managed by Sodexo, was the third and final food operation on Principal’s sprawling urban campus that underwent an overhaul.

The project involved relocating the café from the building’s third floor to the first, utilizing previously underused space and making the café more appealing and accessible to the more than 2,000 employees who work in the building.

Café 655 offers full-service dining during breakfast and lunch hours Monday through Friday, as well as an around-the-clock micro market. The eatery employs eight full-time workers who manage more than 1,000 transactions per day.

Outfitting for durability

When it came time to select the plumbing fixtures for the new kitchen, the project’s designers chose T&S Brass for everything from the pre-rinse unit and various kitchen faucets to sensor faucets for hand sinks, an eye wash station, a hose reel and a kettle filler.

“T&S products are easy to use and maintain, and their broad range of products took care of all the needs we had in the kitchen,” said Jon Broughton, general manager of Sodexo at Principal Financial. “We look forward to many years of reliable service.”

The café’s new home posed some space constraints, so designers had to be mindful of every inch of kitchen space. Several T&S products were chosen specifically for their space-saving but highly functional design.

“The eyewash station is great. Its integrated wall-mount design provides easy access yet takes up no valuable kitchen space,” Broughton said. “And the new kettle-filling stanchion is a hit with workers for being so easy to use.”

The team also selected a T&S hose reel with table leg bracket, allowing the hose to be mounted in an out-of-the-way location but accessed quickly for clean up and wash down.

“T&S will be our first choice on any café construction or renovation project in the future.”

— Jon Broughton, General Manager of Sodexo at Principal Financial